

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee

3b. GSA Committee No.

10732

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

Yes

5. Current Charter

03/26/2018

6. Expected Renewal Date

03/26/2020

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

Agency Charter Departmental Regulation 1042-139

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Agency Departmental Regulation 1042-139

13. Effective Date

08/06/2001

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

17b. Closed

17c. Partially Closed

Other Activities

17d. Total

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$32,718.00	\$42,180.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$31,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$100.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00

18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$17,000.00
18d. Total	\$32,718.00	\$90,280.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.40	0.40

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The scope and objective of the committee is to examine the full spectrum of fruit and vegetable issues and provide suggestions and ideas to USDA on how it can tailor its programs to meet the industry's needs. The duties of the Committee are solely advisory. Agenda items and issues of importance are gathered by the Agricultural Marketing Service from Committee members in advance of each meeting. Following identified officials, experts and specialists speaking to the Committee during meetings, the Committee devises recommendations, and votes as a full Committee on recommendations to be forwarded to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Committee conducts votes on issues by voice vote. During two previous charters, Committee members have divided into 5 to 6-person working groups to do research on specified issues between meetings. A working group spokesperson then presents findings to the full Committee for its consideration during meetings.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Membership consists of up to 25 members who represent the fruit and vegetable industry: growers/shippers, wholesalers/receivers, retailers, state departments of agriculture, trade associations, processors, fresh-cut processors, importers, foodservice suppliers and brokers, each representing a balanced diversity of views regarding fruit and vegetable industry interests.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

Estimated number of meetings average 1-2 per fiscal year, with committee members split into working groups based upon subject matter determined by the full committee. These working groups meet approximately 2-4 times per year each via teleconference call.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

This committee is essential in the view of the fruit and vegetable industry's importance to the nation's economy. The exchange of views and information between industry representatives and USDA should result in improved understanding of the impact of USDA programs on the fruit and vegetable industry and contribute to those programs effective and efficient administration. Advice of the committee is not available from other sources because no other source would provide a focal point and unified voice for an industry otherwise represented by numerous and small firms that are often overshadowed

by larger interests.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A.

21. Remarks

In FY2018, the FVIAC did not meet due to the charter expiring and needing to appoint new board members. Cost associated to federal staff managing the committee.

Designated Federal Officer

Marlene Betts Designated Federal Officer

Narrative Description

A goal of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is to continually evolve to meet the changing needs of the U.S. produce industry. AMS services to the industry are related to price and market information (Market News), fresh and processed product grading and certification, food procurement for domestic schools and assistance organizations, marketing orders, generic promotion, and the administration of a fair-trade law (the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act). Hearing from the industry in a unified voice, that this Committee provides, enables AMS to adjust its user-fee services, which are mostly voluntary (in most cases not required to be used by industry members) for the best value by customers.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

During a number of meetings throughout the tenure of the Committee, Committee

members expressed a satisfaction that USDA is working for the benefit of their industry, something that they were not assured of prior to the Committee participation. Simply knowing government is open to change and their ideas has foster positive exchange of ideas and a strong, personable relationship between USDA and the produce industry.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Over \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cost Savings Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

90

Number of Recommendations Comments

90 total recommendations for the life of the committee. No recommendations in 2018. At the May 2017 meeting, the committee made 9 recommendations; Food Safety group made 3 recommendations concerning the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and the continued work between AMS and FDA; Produce Consumption groups recommendations were to increase fruit and vegetable consumption and increase awareness of programs created by Team Nutrition (FNS); Research and Grants group wants the USDA to continue to support the various grant, research and infrastructure programs at USDA; Market News group wants USDA to continue to fund the reporting of fruit and vegetable market news; Ag. Labor group to continue to support H2A programs for workers to help produce and harvest fruits and vegetables; and Rural Broadband group to obtain broadband connectivity to rural America. Due to the charter expiring the recommendations were simply posted to the website.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or

will be Fully implemented by the agency?

80%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The Committee voted to pass more recommendations to send to the Secretary on May 2017. Due to the charter expiration, the recommendations were posted but not forwarded to the Secretary.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

14%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Recommendations outside of the Agricultural Marketing Services jurisdiction are conveyed to the appropriate agency and office, with dialogue as to the source of the recommendation. Some of these are delivered in the format as either a supporting or change option statement as opposed to a recommendation.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Agency consistently provides feedback on the Recommendations from this committee in general, with new pest and disease detection, and plant breeding funding announced by the Department. Additionally, there was more research funding made available for the citrus greening issue, all of which were recommended in March and September 2015. The April meeting continued to note that the committee would like to assist in promoting healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables to both schools and the general public. As noted previously, the plant breeding and funding recommendation was embraced also from another Advisory Committee (NGRAC/NAREEE).

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>

Approved grants or other payments

☐

Other

☐

Action Comments

n/a

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO

☒

Online Agency Web Site

☒

Online Committee Web Site

☒

Online GSA FACA Web Site

☒

Publications

☒

Other

☐

Access Comments

N/A